

# American NEWS & VIEWS

*A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy*

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September 22, 2004

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**Transcript: President Bush Proposes International Democracy Fund**

*(President Bush addresses 59th U.N. General Assembly)*

Calling on nations to support fledgling democracies around the world, especially in Afghanistan and Iraq, U.S. President Bush proposed the establishment of an international "Democracy Fund."

"Because I believe the advance of liberty is the path to both a safer and better world, today I propose establishing a Democracy Fund within the United Nations. This is a great calling for this great organization," the president said, adding that the United States will make the initial contribution.

The fund would help countries lay the foundations of democracy through the establishment of the rule of law, independent courts, a free press, political parties and trade unions, the president said. It would also help set up voter precincts and polling places, and supporting the work of election monitors, Bush said.

In a September 21 speech to the opening of the 59th U.N. General Assembly, the president outlined a broad agenda to advance human dignity, enhance security, defeat terrorism, protect human rights, and support development in addition to the goal of advancing democracy.

Bush said that the United States "will stand with the people of Afghanistan and Iraq until their hopes of freedom and security are fulfilled."

The president also said that the international community must continue to demonstrate its commitment to Iraq and Afghanistan. "The liberty that many have won at a cost must be secured," he said. "As members of the United Nations we all have a stake in the success of the world's newest democracies."

He warned that terrorist attacks will escalate in Afghanistan and Iraq as their national elections approach.

"The work ahead is demanding. But these difficulties will not shake our conviction that the future of Afghanistan and Iraq is a future of liberty," Bush said. "The proper response to difficulty is not to retreat -- it is to prevail."

Following is the text of the president's speech:

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT IN ADDRESS TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Nations Headquarters  
New York, New York

11:00 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT BUSH: Mr. Secretary General, Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you for the honor of addressing this General Assembly. The American people respect the idealism that gave life to this organization. And we respect the men and women of the U.N., who stand for peace and human rights in every part of the world. Welcome to New York City, and welcome to the United States of America.

During the past three years, I've addressed this General Assembly in a time of tragedy for my country, and in times of decision for all of us. Now we gather at a time of tremendous opportunity for the U.N. and for all peaceful nations. For decades, the circle of liberty and security and development has been expanding in our world. This progress has brought unity to Europe, self-government to Latin America and Asia, and new hope to Africa. Now we have the historic chance to widen the circle even further, to fight radicalism and terror with justice and dignity, to achieve a true peace, founded on human freedom.

The United Nations and my country share the deepest commitments. Both the American Declaration of Independence and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaim the equal value and dignity of every human life. That dignity is honored by the rule of law, limits on the power of the state, respect for women, protection of private property, free speech, equal justice, and religious tolerance. That dignity is dishonored by oppression, corruption, tyranny, bigotry, terrorism and all violence against the innocent. And both of our founding documents affirm that this bright line between justice and injustice -- between right and wrong -- is the same in every age, and every culture, and every nation.

Wise governments also stand for these principles for very practical and realistic reasons. We know that dictators are quick to choose aggression, while free nations strive to resolve differences in peace. We know that oppressive governments support terror, while free governments fight the terrorists in their midst. We know that free peoples embrace progress and life, instead of becoming the recruits for murderous ideologies.

Every nation that wants peace will share the benefits of a freer world. And every nation that seeks peace has an

obligation to help build that world. Eventually, there is no safe isolation from terror networks, or failed states that shelter them, or outlaw regimes, or weapons of mass destruction. Eventually, there is no safety in looking away, seeking the quiet life by ignoring the struggles and oppression of others.

In this young century, our world needs a new definition of security. Our security is not merely found in spheres of influence, or some balance of power. The security of our world is found in the advancing rights of mankind.

These rights are advancing across the world -- and across the world, the enemies of human rights are responding with violence. Terrorists and their allies believe the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the American Bill of Rights, and every charter of liberty ever written, are lies, to be burned and destroyed and forgotten. They believe that dictators should control every mind and tongue in the Middle East and beyond. They believe that suicide and torture and murder are fully justified to serve any goal they declare. And they act on their beliefs.

In the last year alone, terrorists have attacked police stations, and banks, and commuter trains, and synagogues - and a school filled with children. This month in Beslan we saw, once again, how the terrorists measure their success -- in the death of the innocent, and in the pain of grieving families. Svetlana Dzebisov was held hostage, along with her son and her nephew -- her nephew did not survive. She recently visited the cemetery, and saw what she called the "little graves." She said, "I understand that there is evil in the world. But what have these little creatures done?"

Members of the United Nations, the Russian children did nothing to deserve such awful suffering, and fright, and death. The people of Madrid and Jerusalem and Istanbul and Baghdad have done nothing to deserve sudden and random murder. These acts violate the standards of justice in all cultures, and the principles of all religions. All civilized nations are in this struggle together, and all must fight the murderers.

We're determined to destroy terror networks wherever they operate, and the United States is grateful to every nation that is helping to seize terrorist assets, track down their operatives, and disrupt their plans. We're determined to end the state sponsorship of terror -- and my nation is grateful to all that participated in the liberation of Afghanistan. We're determined to prevent proliferation, and to enforce the demands of the world -- and my nation is grateful to the soldiers of many nations who have helped to deliver the Iraqi people from an outlaw dictator.

The dictator agreed in 1991, as a condition of a cease-fire, to fully comply with all Security Council resolutions -- then ignored more than a decade of those resolutions. Finally, the Security Council promised serious consequences for his defiance. And the commitments we make must have meaning. When we say "serious consequences," for the sake of peace, there must be serious consequences. And so a coalition of nations enforced the just demands of the world. Defending our ideals is vital, but it is not enough. Our broader mission as U.N. members is to apply these ideals to the great issues of our time. Our wider goal is to promote hope and progress as the alternatives to hatred and violence. Our great purpose is to build a better world beyond the war on terror.

Because we believe in human dignity, America and many nations have established a global fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. In three years the contributing countries have funded projects in more than 90 countries, and pledged a total of \$5.6 billion to these efforts. America has undertaken a \$15 billion effort to provide prevention and treatment and humane care in nations afflicted by AIDS, placing a special focus on 15 countries where the need is most urgent. AIDS is the greatest health crisis of our time, and our unprecedented commitment will bring new hope to those who have walked too long in the shadow of death.

Because we believe in human dignity, America and many nations have joined together to confront the evil of trafficking in human beings. We're supporting organizations that rescue the victims, passing stronger anti-trafficking laws, and warning travelers that they will be held to account for supporting this modern form of slavery. Women and children should never be exploited for pleasure or greed, anywhere on Earth.

Because we believe in human dignity, we should take seriously the protection of life from exploitation under any pretext. In this session, the U.N. will consider a resolution sponsored by Costa Rica calling for a comprehensive ban on human cloning. I support that resolution and urge all governments to affirm a basic ethical principle: No human life should ever be produced or destroyed for the benefit of another.

Because we believe in human dignity, America and many nations have changed the way we fight poverty, curb corruption, and provide aid. In 2002 we created the Monterrey Consensus, a bold approach that links new aid from developed nations to real reform in developing ones. And through the Millennium Challenge Account, my nation is increasing our aid to developing nations that

expand economic freedom and invest in the education and health of their own people.

Because we believe in human dignity, America and many nations have acted to lift the crushing burden of debt that limits the growth of developing economies, and holds millions of people in poverty. Since these efforts began in 1996, poor countries with the heaviest debt burdens have received more than \$30 billion of relief. And to prevent the build-up of future debt, my country and other nations have agreed that international financial institutions should increasingly provide new aid in the form of grants, rather than loans.

Because we believe in human dignity, the world must have more effective means to stabilize regions in turmoil, and to halt religious violence and ethnic cleansing. We must create permanent capabilities to respond to future crises. The United States and Italy have proposed a Global Peace Operations Initiative. G8 countries will train 75,000 peacekeepers, initially from Africa, so they can conduct operations on that continent and elsewhere. The countries of the G8 will help this peacekeeping force with deployment and logistical needs.

At this hour, the world is witnessing terrible suffering and horrible crimes in the Darfur region of Sudan, crimes my government has concluded are genocide. The United States played a key role in efforts to broker a cease-fire, and we're providing humanitarian assistance to the Sudanese people. Rwanda and Nigeria have deployed forces in Sudan to help improve security so aid can be delivered. The Security Council adopted a new resolution that supports an expanded African Union force to help prevent further bloodshed, and urges the government of Sudan to stop flights by military aircraft in Darfur. We congratulate the members of the Council on this timely and necessary action. I call on the government of Sudan to honor the cease-fire it signed, and to stop the killing in Darfur.

Because we believe in human dignity, peaceful nations must stand for the advance of democracy. No other system of government has done more to protect minorities, to secure the rights of labor, to raise the status of women, or to channel human energy to the pursuits of peace. We've witnessed the rise of democratic governments in predominantly Hindu and Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish and Christian cultures. Democratic institutions have taken root in modern societies, and in traditional societies. When it comes to the desire for liberty and justice, there is no clash of civilizations. People everywhere are capable of freedom, and worthy of freedom.

Finding the full promise of representative government takes time, as America has found in two centuries of debate and struggle. Nor is there any -- only one form of representative government -- because democracies, by definition, take on the unique character of the peoples that create them. Yet this much we know with certainty: The desire for freedom resides in every human heart. And that desire cannot be contained forever by prison walls, or martial laws, or secret police. Over time, and across the Earth, freedom will find a way.

Freedom is finding a way in Iraq and Afghanistan -- and we must continue to show our commitment to democracies in those nations. The liberty that many have won at a cost must be secured. As members of the United Nations, we all have a stake in the success of the world's newest democracies.

Not long ago, outlaw regimes in Baghdad and Kabul threatened the peace and sponsored terrorists. These regimes destabilized one of the world's most vital -- and most volatile -- regions. They brutalized their peoples, in defiance of all civilized norms. Today, the Iraqi and Afghan people are on the path to democracy and freedom. The governments that are rising will pose no threat to others. Instead of harboring terrorists, they're fighting terrorist groups. And this progress is good for the long-term security of us all.

The Afghan people are showing extraordinary courage under difficult conditions. They're fighting to defend their nation from Taliban holdouts, and helping to strike against the terrorist killers. They're reviving their economy. They've adopted a constitution that protects the rights of all, while honoring their nation's most cherished traditions. More than 10 million Afghan citizens -- over 4 million of them women -- are now registered to vote in next month's presidential election. To any who still would question whether Muslim societies can be democratic societies, the Afghan people are giving their answer.

Since the last meeting of this General Assembly, the people of Iraq have regained sovereignty. Today, in this hall, the Prime Minister of Iraq and his delegation represent a country that has rejoined the community of nations. The government of Prime Minister Allawi has earned the support of every nation that believes in self-determination and desires peace. And under Security Council resolutions 1511 and 1546, the world is providing that support. The U.N., and its member nations, must respond to Prime Minister Allawi's request, and do more to help build an Iraq that is secure, democratic, federal, and free.

A democratic Iraq has ruthless enemies, because terrorists know the stakes in that country. They know that a free Iraq in the heart of the Middle East will be a decisive blow against their ambitions for that region. So a terrorists group associated with al-Qaeda is now one of the main groups killing the innocent in Iraq today -- conducting a campaign of bombings against civilians, and the beheadings of bound men. Coalition forces now serving in Iraq are confronting the terrorists and foreign fighters, so peaceful nations around the world will never have to face them within our own borders.

Our coalition is standing beside a growing Iraqi security force. The NATO Alliance is providing vital training to that force. More than 35 nations have contributed money and expertise to help rebuild Iraq's infrastructure. And as the Iraqi interim government moves toward national elections, officials from the United Nations are helping Iraqis build the infrastructure of democracy. These selfless people are doing heroic work, and are carrying on the great legacy of Sergio de Mello.

As we have seen in other countries, one of the main terrorist goals is to undermine, disrupt, and influence election outcomes. We can expect terrorist attacks to escalate as Afghanistan and Iraq approach national elections. The work ahead is demanding. But these difficulties will not shake our conviction that the future of Afghanistan and Iraq is a future of liberty. The proper response to difficulty is not to retreat, it is to prevail.

The advance of freedom always carries a cost, paid by the bravest among us. America mourns the losses to our nation, and to many others. And today, I assure every friend of Afghanistan and Iraq, and every enemy of liberty: We will stand with the people of Afghanistan and Iraq until their hopes of freedom and security are fulfilled.

These two nations will be a model for the broader Middle East, a region where millions have been denied basic human rights and simple justice. For too long, many nations, including my own, tolerated, even excused, oppression in the Middle East in the name of stability. Oppression became common, but stability never arrived. We must take a different approach. We must help the reformers of the Middle East as they work for freedom, and strive to build a community of peaceful, democratic nations.

This commitment to democratic reform is essential to resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. Peace will not be achieved by Palestinian rulers who intimidate opposition, tolerate corruption, and maintain ties to terrorist groups. The long-suffering Palestinian people deserve better. They

deserve true leaders capable of creating and governing a free and peaceful Palestinian state.

Even after the setbacks and frustrations of recent months, goodwill and hard effort can achieve the promise of the road map to peace. Those who would lead a new Palestinian state should adopt peaceful means to achieve the rights of their people, and create the reformed institutions of a stable democracy. Arab states should end incitement in their own media, cut off public and private funding for terrorism, and establish normal relations with Israel. Israel should impose a settlement freeze, dismantle unauthorized outposts, end the daily humiliation of the Palestinian people, and avoid any actions that prejudice final negotiations. And world leaders should withdraw all favor and support from any Palestinian ruler who fails his people and betrays their cause.

The democratic hopes we see growing in the Middle East are growing everywhere. In the words of the Burmese democracy advocate, Aung San Suu Kyi: "We do not accept the notion that democracy is a Western value. To the contrary; democracy simply means good government rooted in responsibility, transparency, and accountability." Here at the United Nations, you know this to be true. In recent years, this organization has helped create a new democracy in East Timor, and the U.N. has aided other nations in making the transition to self-rule.

Because I believe the advance of liberty is the path to both a safer and better world, today I propose establishing a Democracy Fund within the United Nations. This is a great calling for this great organization. The fund would help countries lay the foundations of democracy by instituting the rule of law and independent courts, a free press, political parties and trade unions. Money from the fund would also help set up voter precincts and polling places, and support the work of election monitors. To show our commitment to the new Democracy Fund, the United States will make an initial contribution. I urge other nations to contribute, as well.

Today, I've outlined a broad agenda to advance human dignity, and enhance the security of all of us. The defeat of terror, the protection of human rights, the spread of prosperity, the advance of democracy -- these causes, these ideals, call us to great work in the world. Each of us alone can only do so much. Together, we can accomplish so much more.

History will honor the high ideals of this organization. The charter states them with clarity: "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," "to reaffirm faith in



fundamental human rights," "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

Let history also record that our generation of leaders followed through on these ideals, even in adversity. Let history show that in a decisive decade, members of the United Nations did not grow weary in our duties, or waver in meeting them. I'm confident that this young century will be liberty's century. I believe we will rise to this moment, because I know the character of so many nations and leaders represented here today. And I have faith in the transforming power of freedom.

May God bless you.

### **Transcript: President Bush, Iraq Prime Minister Allawi Resolved to Quell Insurgency, Hold Elections in Iraq**

*Leaders meet on sidelines of U.N. General Assembly*

President Bush praised Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi for his courage and pledged that the United States would stand beside him and his government as they seek to overcome the insurgency in Iraq and work towards national elections. The two leaders met in New York September 21 during a gathering of the U.N. General Assembly.

"The Iraqi citizens are defying the pessimistic predictions. The Iraqi citizens are headed toward free elections. This government has been in place for a little over two months, and the Iraqi citizens are seeing a determined effort by responsible citizens to lead to a more hopeful tomorrow. And I am optimistic we'll succeed," Bush told reporters following the meeting.

The Iraqi prime minister spoke of the successes that his government has achieved in the cities of Najaf, Samarra, Mosul and Basra and said it is unfortunate that the media does not report on them.

However, Allawi did not seek to downplay the significance of the ongoing insurgency, saying, "It's a war for the civilized world to fight terrorists and terrorism."

Following is the transcript of Bush and Allawi's remarks to the press:

**REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BUSH AND PRIME MINISTER ALLAWI OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ IN A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

**PRESIDENT BUSH:** A couple of opening statements. We'll answer -- I'll answer a couple of questions from the U.S.

media, AP and Reuters, and I'll answer a question from the Iraqi media, as well.

First, Mr. Prime Minister, it's been my delight to visit with you. I appreciate your courage. I appreciate your leadership. I am -- I share the same confidence you share that Iraq will be a free nation, and as a nation, our world will be safer and America will be more secure. We look forward to working with you, sir. I'm proud that you have -- you and your administration have stood strong in the face of the terrorists who want to disrupt progress in Iraq.

Today -- yesterday an American citizen was beheaded. We express our heartfelt condolences. We send our prayers to the Armstrong family. We also stand in solidarity with the American that is now being held captive, while we send our prayers to his wife.

These killers want to shake our will --

**PRIME MINISTER ALLAWI:** Yes.

**PRESIDENT BUSH:** They want to determine the fate of the Iraqi people. We will not allow these thugs and terrorists to decide your fate, and to decide our fate. As your election draws closer, I'm confident the terrorists will try to stop the progress by acts of violence. And I appreciate your will, and I appreciate your strength. And we'll stand with you, Mr. Prime Minister. Welcome.

**PRIME MINISTER ALLAWI:** Thank you very much. I would like to pay my condolences really to the people who lost their lives in defending -- fighters of freedom and democracy. The barbaric action of yesterday really is unbelievable. It demonstrates how much these criminals are wanting to damage our worth across Iraq, as well as in the civilized world.

We in Iraq appreciate tremendously the courage President Bush took in deciding to wage war to destroy Saddam. The atrocities and tyranny and -- atrocities that have been committed when Saddam was around was unbelievable. We show a lot of -- hundreds of thousands of mass graves in Iraq.

The war now in Iraq is really not only an Iraqi war, it's a war for the civilized world to fight terrorists and terrorism. And there is no route but the route of winning, and we are going to prevail and we are going to win, regardless of how much damage they are going to make and cause in Iraq and elsewhere. They want to undermine us in Iraq and to move from Iraq, to undermine the region. And once they do this, they will hit hard at the civilized world -- in Washington

and New York and London and Paris and Ankara and Geneva, elsewhere -- everywhere in the civilized world.

So we are adamant and determined that we, together, will stand and win against the aggressors, and peace and stability will prevail in the Middle East. And we thank you very much for your support.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you, sir.

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President. You've answered some of Senator Kerry's criticisms in the last couple days about your Iraq policy. A couple of Republicans have raised some questions, as well, in the last couple days. Senator Hagel said that, "sharp analysis of our policies is required. We didn't do that in Vietnam, to the point where we finally lost." Senator McCain, you're not being "as straight as we would want him to be," about the situation in Iraq. What do you say to them?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Both Senators you quoted strongly want me elected as President. We agree that the world is better off with Saddam Hussein sitting in a prison cell. And that stands in stark contrast to the statement my opponent made yesterday when he said that the world was better off with Saddam in power.

I strongly disagree. It is in our interests that we deal with Prime Minister Allawi. It's in our interests that we work toward a free society in Iraq. And I believe we'll have a free society in Iraq, and I know that a free society in Iraq makes America safer and the world better off.

My opponent has taken so many different positions on Iraq that his statements are hardly credible at all.

Q: Mr. President, how do you evaluate Mr. Allawi's visit to America? And in what way -- how can we -- what the result will be reflected on the situation of Iraq, as a result of this visit?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Well, first, I'm glad to be able to look him in the eye -- and tell him how much I appreciate his courage. I believe that Iraq needed a strong government to lead the people toward a free world. And this group of gentlemen here are doing just that.

This is an important visit because the Prime Minister will be able to explain clearly to the American people that not only is progress being made, that we will succeed. The American people have seen horrible scenes on our TV screens. And the Prime Minister will be able to say to them that in spite of the sacrifices being made, in spite of the fact that Iraqis are dying and U.S. troops are dying, as well, that there is a

will amongst the Iraqi people to succeed. And we stand with them. It's also an important visit for me to say to the people of Iraq that America has given its word to help, and we'll keep our word.

Q Right here, Mr. President, thank you. Why do you think the CIA's assessment of conditions in Iraq are so much at odds with the optimism that you and Prime Minister Allawi are expressing at the moment?

PRESIDENT BUSH: The CIA laid out a -- several scenarios that said, life could be lousy, life could be okay, life could be better. And they were just guessing as to what the conditions might be like. The Iraqi citizens are defying the pessimistic predictions. The Iraqi citizens are headed toward free elections. This government has been in place for a little over two months, and the Iraqi citizens are seeing a determined effort by responsible citizens to lead to a more hopeful tomorrow. And I am optimistic we'll succeed.

Listen, I understand how tough it is. The Prime Minister understands how tough it is -- he has to live with the few who are trying to stop the aspirations of the many. And we are -- we're standing with the Iraqi people because it's in our nation's interests to do so. We're standing with the people of this good country because we understand that, as Prime Minister has said, that we must defeat them there; otherwise we'll face them here at home.

And we'll prevail. We will succeed. It's an historic opportunity. And that's why I'm so honored to be with the Prime Minister. It's an historic opportunity not only to change this good country for the better and secure America, but it's an historic opportunity to set example for people in the broader Middle East that free societies can, and will, exist.

And I want to thank you for your leadership, sir.

PRIME MINISTER ALLAWI: Thank you, Mr. President. It's very important for the people of the world really to know that we are winning, we are making progress in Iraq. We are defeating terrorists. Najaf, Samarra, Mosul, Basra are all live examples that a lot of progress have been made. Unfortunately, the media have not been covering these significant gains in Iraq. And this is all because of the determination of the Iraqi people. The light that they are seeing at the end will -- democracy will prevail, the rule of law will prevail. The issues and culture of human rights will prevail. And the friendship with the United States and with the civilized nations are comfortable there.

So, really, the winning, it's unfortunate, is not being portrayed in the media. This is very unfortunate. I always

say that we are welcoming any media who wants to come to Iraq and see for themselves the grounds we are covering and the winning we are doing in Iraq.

PRESIDENT BUSH: One thing is for certain. My discussions with Prime Minister Allawi reconfirm to me that the world is much better off with Prime Minister Allawi and his government in power. And any statement to the contrary is wrong. The idea somehow that the world would be better off with Saddam Hussein in power is an absurd notion.  
Thank you all.

### **Text: President Bush, Indian Prime Minister Singh Hold First Meeting**

*Leaders discuss international security, economic ties*

Global security issues were at the top of the agenda as President Bush met for the first time with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh September 21 on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York.

The two leaders discussed the issues of terrorism and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction according to a joint statement released by the White House.

Bush and Singh also reviewed the progress that has been made in the U.S.-Indian "Next Steps in Strategic Partnership" (NSSP) initiative, which paves the way for increased bilateral cooperation in space programs, civilian nuclear projects and high-technology trade.

The press release said that the leaders expected to see closer economic integration and greater defense cooperation as bilateral relations continue to deepen.

Following is the text of the joint statement:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
(New York, New York)  
September 21, 2004

### **JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND INDIA**

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had their first meeting today. The two leaders noted with satisfaction that bilateral relations had never been as close as they were at present, and they set the direction for further development of the India-U.S. strategic partnership.

They welcomed the recent implementation of Phase 1 of the Next Steps in Strategic Partnership to include the removal of ISRO Headquarters from the Commerce Department's Entity List, as the beginning of a new era of cooperation and trust. Expanded defense cooperation was perceived as an integral aspect of the expanding ties.

The two leaders exchanged thoughts on their shared global concerns and agreed that making the world a safer place was an overriding priority. They recognized the importance of working closely together in the war against terrorism and in combating proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

They agreed that policies encouraging greater integration of the two economies and with the global economy would offer opportunities to expand and strengthen their economic partnership. To this end, the two leaders also expressed their desire to strengthen cooperation on international economic issues including the WTO's Doha Development Agenda, and on bilateral efforts such as the U.S.-India Economic Dialogue and the High Technology Cooperation Group.

President Bush and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh agreed that stronger partnership between India and the United States, two nations sharing values and traditions, acting in concert in international institutions, would enhance global security and prosperity.

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### **Republican, Democratic Platforms Differ Sharply on Iraq, Afghanistan**

*(Republicans, Democrats hold similar views on Israeli-Palestinian issue)*

By Ralph Dannheisser, Washington File Writer

Washington -- The policy declarations -- known as platforms -- issued at the Democratic and Republican nominating conventions provide a guide to the issues on which the presidential candidates will appeal for votes in the November 2 election.

Both the Democratic platform adopted at the July convention that formally selected Senator John Kerry as the party's presidential nominee, and the Republican platform adopted at the August convention that renominated President George W. Bush, devote substantial attention to foreign affairs.



Not unexpectedly, both place a strong emphasis on the Middle East and South Asia, and most especially U.S. policy in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As is invariably the case, the party in power points with pride to the administration's policies, while the challengers view those policies with alarm.

The Republican platform, entitled "A Safer World and a More Hopeful America," highlights, in its introduction, what it sees as successful U.S. foreign policy.

"Thanks to President Bush's leadership, the skill of the American military, and the commitment of our allies, today there are more than 50 million newly free people in the nations of Afghanistan and Iraq -- and America is safer," it proclaims.

By contrast the Democratic platform, "Strong at Home, Respected in the World," contends in its preamble that while "our brave men and women in uniform are still in harm's way in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the war against terror," this nation's "alliances are frayed, our credibility in doubt."

#### *Republican Views*

The Republicans say the Bush administration's actions demonstrate that "we will not allow the world's most dangerous regimes to possess the world's most dangerous weapons." The message is getting through, it claims, "as indicated by Libya's leader, who decided to turn over his weapons of mass destruction and cooperate with the international community."

The platform vows continued efforts at the "total and complete destruction of terrorism." At the same time, it pledges, "we will extend the peace by supporting the rise of democracy, and the hope and progress that democracy brings, as the alternative to hatred and terror in the broader Middle East."

The war against terrorism is not a battle of faiths, the platform declares. "We recognize that acts of violence against innocents violate the fundamental tenets of the Islamic faith," it says.

The policy document credits Bush with freeing Afghanistan from "the nightmare of the Taliban," a "backward and brutal" regime that had given a secure home base to al-Qaida.

While Pakistan formerly recognized the Taliban regime, it says, "Today, the governments of the United States and

Pakistan are working closely in the fight against terror." Moreover, it says, Saudi Arabia, where terrorists were well established three years ago, "has seen the danger and has joined the war on terror."

And Iraq, where the U.S.-led coalition removed Saddam Hussein from power, "is now becoming an example of reform to the region," the platform says. It pledges, "our nation will persevere in our mission there," and declares "full confidence in the plan for Iraqi self-government that is currently being implemented by Iraq's interim government."

With respect to Afghanistan, it applauds the president's call for initiatives to support the development of democracy, educational assistance, cultural exchanges, bilateral economic ties and increased opportunity for women.

The platform calls for a strong partnership with India crafted to "address any differences and shape a dynamic future." At the same time, it endorses "continued American support for Pakistan's security, economic and social programs."

The document supports the president's Middle East Policy Initiative, which funds economic, political and educational reform efforts throughout the region, in particular, efforts to help women and youth.

It commends trade advances concluded, or being negotiated with, nations including Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Tunisia. It supports continued assistance to countries that have made peace with Israel "led by Egypt and Jordan."

The platform endorses Bush's commitment to "the security of America's democratic ally Israel and the safety of the Israeli people," adding that Israel must maintain "a qualitative edge in defensive technology over any potential adversaries." It views Israel's plan to remove all settlements from Gaza and several from the West Bank as "a courageous step toward peace in the face of continuing terrorist violence."

And it backs the president's call for a new Palestinian leadership, "not compromised by terror." The creation of a new Palestinian leadership is a necessary step toward his goal of "two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security," the Republican platform says.

In a brief reference to Iran, the platform says that nation's development of a nuclear weapon would be "intolerable to the international community."

*Democratic Views*

For Democrats the realities are quite different.

Arguing that the Bush administration has abandoned a century of American leadership in the world "to embrace a new -- and dangerously ineffective -- disregard for the world," their platform declares that "time and again, this administration confuses leadership with going it alone and engagement with compromise of principle." It pledges that Kerry will work to rebuild U.S. alliances and international respect.

"Victory in the war on terror requires a combination of American determination and international cooperation on all fronts," it says.

Assailing the "rush to war" in Iraq without "a plan to win the peace," the platform calls for a multilateral effort to create stability and security there lest it remain "a breeding ground for terror and intolerance." It proposes a massive training effort to build Iraqi security forces, selection of an international High Commissioner to serve as the senior representative working with the Iraqi government, and provision of desperately-needed financial and technical assistance "that is not swallowed up by bureaucracy and no-bid contracts."

Vowing to move decisively to cut off terrorist funds, the document specifically mentions Saudi Arabia, where it promises to end the Bush administration's "kid-glove approach to the supply and laundering of terrorist money."

It accuses the administration of defaulting on promises to rebuild Afghanistan.

"The Bush Administration has badly mishandled the war's aftermath. Two years ago, President Bush promised a Marshall Plan to rebuild that country. Instead, he has all but turned away from Afghanistan, allowing it to become again a potential haven for terrorists. We must expand NATO forces outside Kabul. We must accelerate training for the Afghan army and police," the platform said.

More broadly, the platform calls for "a major initiative in public diplomacy to support the many voices of freedom in the Arab and Muslim world," including "a cooperative international effort to compete with radical Madrassas" in educating the next generation of Islamic youth.

And it calls for development of a plan -- relying in part on tapping sources of renewable energy -- "to end America's dependence on Mideast oil." This dependence forces

America to remain silent about the repressive practices of some governments that control the flow, it argues.

Agreeing with the Republicans that a nuclear-armed Iran presents "an unacceptable risk to us and our allies," the Democrats suggest that the Bush administration has focused too single-mindedly on finding weapons of mass destruction "next door" in Iraq.

As for the nuclear threat in South Asia, their platform calls for steps to reduce tension between India and Pakistan and "guard against the possibility of their nuclear weapons falling into the wrong hands."

Like the Republicans, the Democrats declare an unshakeable commitment to Israel's security and support for Jerusalem as its capital, "an undivided city accessible to people of all faiths."

Like the Republicans too, they call for promotion of a "new and responsible leadership" for the Palestinian Authority, leading to creation of a democratic Palestinian state "living in peace and security side by side with the Jewish state of Israel."

The text of the Republican platform can be found at <http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/msnbc/Sections/News/Politics/Conventions/RNC-2004platform.pdf>.

The text of the Democratic platform can be found at <http://www.democrats.org/platform/>.

\*EPF208 09/21/2004

### **Senate Committee Approves Porter Goss for CIA Director**

*(Congressional Report, September 21: Intelligence Reform)*

Washington -- The Senate Intelligence Committee approved the nomination of U.S. Representative Porter J. Goss to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

By a vote of 12-4, the intelligence committee September 21 sent President Bush's choice to head the agency to the full Senate. Committee Chairman Pat Roberts said he expects quick Senate approval on September 22.

Roberts described Goss as independent, nonpartisan and aggressive, and well qualified to head the CIA.

Bush nominated Goss, the former Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, August 10. Goss would succeed George Tenet, who resigned July 11 after criticism

of the performance of the intelligence community in the fight against terrorism.

Goss' nomination comes as Congress is considering numerous bills that would reorganize or revamp the 15-member U.S. intelligence community, create a new post of national intelligence director with sweeping authority and establish a National Counterterrorism Center.

The Senate Governmental Affairs Committee began two days of final debate September 21 on legislation to overhaul the intelligence community. The bill would represent the most sweeping overhaul of American intelligence since creation of the current national security apparatus in 1947.

The bill would create a National Intelligence Authority headed by a national intelligence director with budgetary authority over the National Foreign Intelligence Program, which would include all federal agencies involved in intelligence gathering and analysis except for those providing direct joint military and tactical intelligence.

The proposed national intelligence director would be given authority to develop, present and execute an intelligence budget, and authority to move employees among the agencies, but with permission from the White House Office of Management and Budget.

The bill also would create the National Counterterrorism Center.

The Republican leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives are working on a wide-ranging bill that could be sent to six different House committees for consideration during the week of September 27-October 1. Several other Senate bills are also under consideration, but final action may not come in time before the current Congress recesses until January 2005.

\*EPF209 09/21/2004

### **Poverty, Hunger Can Be Eradicated Through Growth, U.S. Says**

*(Agriculture's Veneman rejects global taxes as way to finance development)*

By Judy Aita, Washington File Correspondent

United Nations -- Economic growth is the long-term solution to hunger and poverty, not schemes such as global taxes, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman says.

In September 20 remarks to a meeting of world leaders called "Action Against Hunger and Poverty," Veneman said

that the United States is committed to reducing the number of hungry in the world by half by the year 2015, thus achieving the U.N. Millennium Development Goals. But she said that, despite decades of effort, the challenges of overcoming poverty are still enormous with nearly 850 million people facing chronic hunger.

Veneman rejected the use of global taxes, which was one idea suggested at the meeting, as a way of financing development. Summit leaders and an expert group proposed to tax such items as international financial transactions, airline tickets, greenhouse-gas emissions and weapons sales to raise money for economic development.

"Global taxes are inherently undemocratic; implementation is impossible," she said.

Veneman, who represented President George Bush at the summit, said that the commitment world leaders made in the Monterrey Consensus of 2002 is working.

In the document agreed upon at the U.N. Financing for Development conference in Monterrey, Mexico, the leaders vowed to fight poverty through development based on good governance, solid institutions, effective health systems, a vibrant private sector, open trade and investment, and effective use of science and technology. They also agreed that each country has the primary responsibility for its own development, with developed countries providing additional resources.

Veneman said that many developing countries are making "bold" reforms and developed countries are supporting these efforts. Total official development assistance worldwide has risen nearly 30 percent since 2000 and is expected to rise even further as countries turn their Monterrey pledges into actions, she said.

One of these actions, she said, is the United States' Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), designed to provide additional development assistance to countries that govern justly, invest in their people and promote economic freedom. The Bush administration projects that money channeled through the MCA will increase U.S. core development aid by 50 percent.

Briefing journalists before the summit, Veneman also said that foreign aid is not the only remedy for developing countries struggling to feed their people. She cited the often meager results of assistance provided so far.

"Any approach that fails to heed the lessons of our experience with development and foreign assistance and merely calls for more resources is bound to fail," the

agriculture secretary said. "Foreign aid is important, but only one supportive element in a successful development strategy."

She emphasized, for example, the importance of science and technology in easing hunger.

The summit of world leaders -- convened on the eve of the 59th U.N. General Assembly by President of Brazil Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva and co-sponsored by the leaders of Spain, Chile and France -- aimed to give political impetus to the Millennium Development Goals, which are up for a five-year review in September 2005. Lula said his goal for the half-day meeting was not to discuss technical issues, but "to turn a new page in efforts to fight hunger and poverty."

The eight Millennium Development Goals and related targets include cutting in half by 2015 the portion of world population whose income is less than one dollar a day as well as the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

### **Text: U.S. Central Bank Raises Interest Rates Third Time in 2004**

*Views U.S. economic expansion as regaining some speed*

The policy-setting group of the Federal Reserve, the U.S. central bank, has raised a key interest rate for the third time in three months, as widely expected, on evidence that the U.S. economy has regained some momentum.

In a September 21 statement, the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) said it decided to raise the federal funds rate -- the rate banks charge one another for overnight loans -- by 0.25 percentage points to 1.75 percent. In a related action, the Board of Governors raised the discount rate -- the rate the Federal Reserve charges banks for loans -- by 0.25 percentage point to 2.75 percent.

The committee said that it views the economic expansion as regaining some speed and labor market conditions as improving "modestly" after a slowdown earlier in the year, mostly as a result of a "substantial" rise in energy prices.

The FOMC said that inflation increases and the expectation of such increases have moderated in recent months despite rising energy costs.

The committee used language identical to that in the statement issued August 10 at the conclusion of its previous rate-setting meeting to signal that it intends to raise interest rates at a "measured" pace but stands ready to respond to changes in economic prospects to maintain price stability.

The September 21 meeting was the last scheduled FOMC policy-setting session before the November 2 presidential election.

Following is the text of the FOMC statement:

Federal Reserve Board  
September 21, 2004

The Federal Open Market Committee decided today to raise its target for the federal funds rate by 25 basis points to 1-3/4 percent.

The Committee believes that, even after this action, the stance of monetary policy remains accommodative and, coupled with robust underlying growth in productivity, is providing ongoing support to economic activity. After moderating earlier this year partly in response to the substantial rise in energy prices, output growth appears to have regained some traction, and labor market conditions have improved modestly. Despite the rise in energy prices, inflation and inflation expectations have eased in recent months.

The Committee perceives the upside and downside risks to the attainment of both sustainable growth and price stability for the next few quarters to be roughly equal. With underlying inflation expected to be relatively low, the Committee believes that policy accommodation can be removed at a pace that is likely to be measured. Nonetheless, the Committee will respond to changes in economic prospects as needed to fulfill its obligation to maintain price stability.

Voting for the FOMC monetary policy action were: Alan Greenspan, Chairman; Timothy F. Geithner, Vice Chairman; Ben S. Bernanke; Susan S. Bies; Roger W. Ferguson, Jr.; Edward M. Gramlich; Thomas M. Hoenig; Donald L. Kohn; Cathy E. Minehan; Mark W. Olson; Sandra Pianalto; and William Poole.

In a related action, the Board of Governors unanimously approved a 25 basis point increase in the discount rate to 2-3/4 percent. In taking this action, the Board approved the requests submitted by the Boards of Directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Dallas, and San Francisco. 2004 Monetary policy

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